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Statement submitted by Shivi Development Society, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

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Statement

In a world where increasing globalization of economies, competing interests, and global governance structures impact the lives of a large part of humanity without its meaningful participation, community driven solutions to the problems and issues facing sustainable development remain a key approach and ray of hope. Shivi Development Society (SDS), therefore, places high premium on promoting a strong community involvement in the planning process, both as a value and as an approach, to arrive at pragmatic, community-rooted and thereby sustainable solutions to the felt and real needs of communities.

SDS believes, that sustainable development is integrated and indivisible, and has prioritized goal 3, goal 5 and goal 16 as an over-arching umbrella under which local communities set their own thematic priorities and ways to work on those areas.

Shivi Development Society's approach to promoting community propelled and owned solutions:

In order to empower local communities and encourage local solutions, SDS works with a large number of youth (both women and men) in Central India, broadly termed as human rights defenders. These defenders focus on local problems affecting their own and their communities' lives. The frameworks under which interventions are devised and undertaken, are many times macro and global, the solutions very often are local. In the process, best practices are generated and shared.

Goal 5: Gender Equality — Women's empowerment and gender justice is at the centre of all programmatic interventions. We consider women's empowerment vital to sustainable development and the realization of human rights for all. Under this programme domain, SDS focuses on the issue of women human rights defenders, which includes safety and security of women activists, survivors of violence, especially in the context of conflict situations; women in governance which also implies representation of women in political and administrative spaces, and women's livelihood focusing on skill building and financial inclusion.

Goal 3: Good Health & Well Being — SDS has experienced that good health and wellbeing is critical to the efforts towards sustainable development. The community groups have underlined the need for a renewed emphasis on the need for health awareness and services. Keeping in view this push from the community level, SDS is consolidating and expanding its interventions in the health sector by creating ownership among local communities about government funds for health and medical services.

Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions — SDS believes and has experienced that for any lasting development, it is important that there is peace in the society and local communities are able to secure justice in an environment of rule of law. Therefore, building local capacity for peace and facilitating access to justice is at the core of SDS programs, as it empowers people to exercise their rights, challenges discrimination and holds decision-makers accountable.

SDS invites those present here to join hands to build a sustainable future for my generation and generations to come, based on the principles of sharing and caring, and driven by sense of rights and responsibilities.

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